

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office action dated 06/02/2003 is respectfully requested under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.111(b).

Applicant has included formal drawings herewith.

Applicant hereby requests a three-month extension of time. Payment of the appropriate fee is authorized by papers filed herewith.

Claims 1-42 are pending.

Claims 1-42 have been rejected.

Claims 10, 24, and 38 have been canceled.

Claims 6-8, 20-22, and 34-36 have not been amended.

New claims 43-45 have been added.

Independent claims 1, 15 and 29, (a computerized method claim, a computer program for causing a computer to execute the method claim, and a system claim for a computer that executes the method) have all been amended. These claims are very similar. The changes to claims 15 and 29 are analogous.

The respective dependent claims have been amended to be consistent with the amended independent claims.

I. Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has made amendments to paragraphs in the specification that included trademarks by appending "TM" to those uses. Applicant did not so amend references to SQL as it is not a trademark and was not used as an adjective. In addition, applicant did not so amend references to Sun Microsystems as those usages referred to the company itself and were used as a noun instead of an adjective. In addition, some minor typographical errors were corrected.

Applicant has also amended the paragraph starting at page 24 line 11 to make clear that Alice send her e-mail to Robert by using a nickname address instead of Robert's actual address. Applicant believes no new matter was added by this amendment as it would have been clear from one skilled in the art reading the application.

II. Rejections under 35 USC § 112, 2nd Paragraph

The applicant has amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the application. In view of the above, the applicant submits that the claims now pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 USC §112 second paragraph.

III. Overview of the Claimed Invention

One aspect of currently amended claim 1 is that of a service as illustrated in Fig. 9 and discussed starting at page 23, line 12. This processing service is interposed, for example, between two users such that the service receives an electronic message from the sender, processes the electronic message, and forwards the electronic message to the intended receiver (page 23, line 12-25). The processing of the electronic message includes the storing of the electronic message in a database and of invoking at least one application to provide an available service. The service provided is responsive to the content of the e-mail. Some embodiments of these applications are described starting at page 24, line 5 through page 26, line 5; page 31, line 5 through page 46, line 5.

One advantage of the claimed invention is that e-mail-invoked services can be provided independently of any particular e-mail system. Thus, these services can be provided without tying the service in to a particular e-mail system (for example, Microsoft® Outlook). Further, these services are available to e-mail clients and servers because the provided service is invoked by the contents of the e-mail as it passes through the e-mail-invoked application server.

1. (currently amended): A computerized method of providing a service comprising steps of:

receiving, by an e-mail-invoked application server, an e-mail message addressed to a nickname address of a recipient utilizing a network, wherein the e-mail includes content;

storing a portion of the e-mail message in a database;

determining an actual address of the recipient;

transmitting the e-mail message to the actual address of the recipient utilizing the network; and

invoking at least one application to provide the service responsive to the content of the e-mail received by the e-mail-invoked application server.

Claims 15 and 29 are analogous to claim 1 but cast as a computer program product and as a system respectively.

This aspect of the invention provides a user with a service provided by an e-mail driven application invoked by an e-mail-invoked application server. In use, one user sends an e-mail message to the nickname address of the recipient. The nickname address directs the e-mail to the e-mail-invoked application server. Once the e-mail-invoked application server receives the e-mail, it determines the actual address of the recipient and sends the e-mail to that address so that the recipient receives the e-mail. The e-mail-invoked application server stores a portion of the e-mail message in a database. It also invokes at least one application to provide the service responsive to the content of the e-mail. Thus, e-mail messages directed to a nickname address of the recipient flow through the e-mail-invoked application server (and in the process invokes an application that performs a service for responsive to the content of the e-mail) on their way to the recipient.

IV. Rejections under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-16, 23-30, 33-35, and 37-42 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,185,551 (Birrell). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following arguments.

Anticipation requires a single reference that teaches or enables each of the claimed elements (arranged as in the claim) expressly or inherently as interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art.

Birrell teaches a computerized distributed e-mail system that allows users to access an e-mail server to send, receive, and manage their e-mail. Birrell teaches an e-mail system that stores electronic messages, serves as a web based e-mail service, stores messages, provides account management services, a message repository, support for queries to access and return stored e-mail messages, and a dynamic address book. Birrell is an e-mail server.

Birrell does not teach determining an actual address of the recipient from a nickname address of the recipient. Birrell also does not teach invoking at least one application to provide the service responsive to the content of the e-mail received by the e-mail-invoked application server.

Thus, because Birrell does not teach or enable each of the claimed elements of currently amended claims 1, 15, or 29 expressly or inherently as interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art, Birrell cannot anticipate currently amended claims 1, 15, or 29.

Current claims 2, 5-7, 9, 11-14, 16, 23, 25-28, 30, 33-35, 37, and 39-42 depend on and further limit their respective independent claims and thus are also not anticipated.

V. Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 3, 4, 8, 17, 18, 22, 31, and 32 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Birrell in view of US patent 6,065,012 (Balsara). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following arguments.

Obviousness requires one or more references that were available to the inventor and that teach a suggestion to combine or modify the references, the combination or modification of which would appear to be sufficient to have made the claimed invention obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Birrell has been previously discussed.

Balsara teaches dynamic summary views of task status, e-mail etc. (an example of this would be of the Microsoft Outlook® “outlook today” view into the outlook data). Balsara does not teach determining an actual address of the recipient from a nickname address of the recipient. Balsara also does not teach invoking at least one application to provide the service responsive to the content of the e-mail received by the e-mail-invoked application server.

Currently-amended claims 1, 15, and 29 are inventive because nothing in Birrell or Balsara separately or combined would suggest the invention of claims 1, 15, or 29 to one skilled in the art.

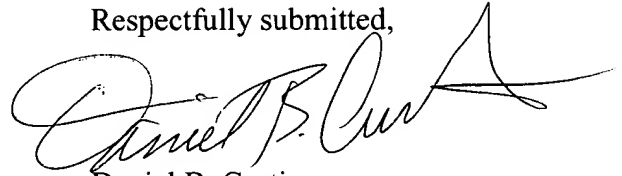
Claims 3, 4, 8, 17, 18, 22, 31, and 32 (as well as the other dependent claims) depend on and further limit their respective independent claims that are patentable. Thus these claims are patentable.

Since all rejections, objections and requirements contained in the outstanding official action have been fully answered or traversed and shown to be inapplicable to the present claims, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration is now in order under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.111(b) and such reconsideration is respectfully requested. Upon reconsideration, it is also respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is therefore respectfully requested.

PATENT

Should any additional issues remain, or if I can be of any additional assistance,
please do not hesitate to contact me at (650) 812-4259.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Curtis", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

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